March 9th, 1914.

Dr. William H. Roberts,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Roberts:-

I am very sorry to bother you again, but find myself in a little embarrassment, and so come directly to Headquarters.

At the time when the Executive Commission met in New York it was said to me at the close of the meeting that a Committee had been appointed by the Commission to take charge of incorporating the Woman's Board of Home Missions. I have most carefully refrained from speaking of this matter to any one, even my own Board officers, but am just in receipt of a letter from the West in which the writer speaks of the fact that she has just learned that the Commission decided to incorporate us. In view of the fact that this seems to be becoming public property, is it in order for me to ask just what action was taken by the Commission, who the members of the Committee are, and any further details connected with this that there may be? I do feel that it would be unfortunate for the Committee to report to General Assembly without some consultationwwith the officers of the Woman's Board, as there would be a good many questions needing most careful adjustment.

With all good wishes to yourself personally, believe me

Very cordially,

KB/W

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

REV. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

Witherspoon Building
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

March 10, 1914

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
156-5th Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

Yours of March 9th is at hand. There is no objection whatever, to your speaking to your own Board officers of the fact that the Executive Commission has recommended the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions. I shall be glad, as Secretary of the Executive Commission, to hear from you, as President of the Woman's Board, on the subject. Of course, the Plan of incorporation, with its details, will not be voted by the Executive Commission, simply the recommendation that incorporation be secured.

Cordially yours,

Wm. H. Roberts

Secretary.

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The School Department
156 Fifth Avenue
New York
Marshall C. Allaben, Superintendent

The Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian -- Church in the United States of America.

March 23, 1914.

My dear Mrs. Bennett:-

I am aware that I am several days late with my promised memorandum with regard to the extra-presbyterial character of the Woman's Board. You will understand that the following notes have been hastily pencilled, and are submitted simply for your consideration. If they should serve in any way as a basis for corresponding articles of incorporation, they would have to be greatly strengthened and elaborated.

1. As a Presbyterian Board, it would be natural and desirable that the Board work through the presbyteries.

2. This is impracticable for the following reasons:

(a) A proper correlation of the work would be impossible as nearly every one of our six fields comprise several presbyteries, and in some cases two or three synods.

(b) Many schools are located in Home Mission presbyteries where pastorates are of most uncertain tenure, and where, accordingly, competent supervising boards or committees could not be selected by presbyteries or synods; and therefore that expert, continuous pedagogical supervision, which is so necessary to the efficient maintenance of our schools, could not be provided presbyterially or even synodically, except at very greatly increased cost.

(c) As only a negligible fraction of the cost of maintaining the Woman's Board's schools could in any case be raised locally, it is absolutely essential that a central agency be maintained,

to provide the required funds. It follows that this central agency would have to be kept in close touch with the work conducted, and would of necessity be responsible to the contributing societies, or individuals, for the wise expenditure of the funds secured. This responsibility could not effectively be discharged by the Board unless the management and control of the work were kept in its power.

3. The Board should cultivate and promote in every proper way the closest and most sympathetic relations with the presbyteries and synods within the bounds of which it may be conducting work, and to this end should institute and maintain an adequate system of field supervision.

Upon careful investigation, I believe it would be apparent that such ends as are indicated by these paragraphs could not be achieved unless the Woman's Board should keep free from any entanglement with presbyterial oversight.

If, then, it does prove true that the Board of Home Missions is to be still further restricted in its extra-presbyterial activities, it would seem inadvisable, from the standpoint of the efficiency of our work, to seek a closer relationship to this Board than now exists. As it is evident that we shall either have to be more closely connected with, or entirely divorced from, this Board, I am inclined to believe that incorporation would prove to be the only wise solution, although the possibility of a more or less intimate connection with the College Board ought to be carefully considered. As a Presbyterian, I am loath to promote any movement that would result in more Church Boards, as I feel that the tendency should be towards concentration instead of further dissipation of forces; but if not in name at least in fact the Woman's Board has been more

or less separate and distinct as an organization for many years, doing its own work, for the most part, in accordance with its own policies and without interference, with a few occasional exceptions.

I trust that you will do me the justice of believing that in making this recommendation I have been guided by no personal considerations whatever. I cannot fail to see the impossibility of maintaining the status quo much longer, and my recent visitations, covering almost the entire field, have convinced me that our work must be done extra-presbyterially if it is to be done efficiently. The Home Mission local force, if given control of our work, in my judgment would make short shrift of the same. The difficulty of keeping up the interest of our constituency even now is very great. It would be impossible without the close touch which the centralized control affords.

Cordially yours,

Superintendent.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
149 Dwight Place,
Englewood, N. J.

A/S.

March 27th, 1914.

Rev. William H. Roberts, D.D.,
Witherspoon Bldg.,
Philadelphia, Penn.

My dear Dr. Roberts:

I had not entirely overlooked the important duty entrusted to you and myself, with reference to the incorporation of the home mission work of our splendid and efficient Presbyterian women. I had, however, forgotten just when we were to report.

I have incorporated a great many organizations for business, religious or literary purposes. There are three important rules which, in my experience, I have found it wise to consider in adopting a corporate name. They are the following:

1. The name should clearly express the purpose of the incorporation.

2. The name should not be so similar to that of any other corporation, as to lead to confusion.

3. The name should be as short and at the same time euphonic as possible.

Applying these rules to the matter under consideration, I have concluded for myself that the following name should be adopted, "Womans Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

This name would express the purpose of the corporation. It cannot be confused with any other name. The first word will

at once arrest attention and prevent confusion with the name of the more general Board of Home Missions; while the second word will at once prevent confusion with any of the Women's Foreign Mission Boards.

The name is longer than I like; but I do not see how it can be shortened, without violating one or the other of the first two rules. It would perhaps be as well to abbreviate the last four words by using only the initials, "U.S.A." On the whole, I think I prefer the abbreviation.

I do not remember whether or not we were to advise as to the place of incorporation. If we are, I would advise that it take place under the laws of New Jersey. It would be an easy matter to hold an annual meeting in Newark, Jersey City, Hoboken or some other city adjacent to New York City. The laws of that state are far more flexible than are those of New York or Pennsylvania.

I have given you my opinion, but I do not insist arbitrarily upon your agreeing with me. I would be glad to consider any other name or place of incorporation with you may prefer.

With sincere regards,

Yours truly,

CTT.

KEITH, EVANS, THOMPSON & FAIRCHILD.
COUNSELLORS AT LAW.
509-14 LOAN AND TRUST BUILDING.
MINNEAPOLIS.

ARTHUR M. KEITH.
CHARLES T. THOMPSON.
EDWIN K. FAIRCHILD.
J. RUSSELL SMITH
HAROLD G. CANT

April 8th, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
c/o Women's Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Bennett;

At the last meeting of the Executive Commission at which I had the pleasure of meeting you, a resolution was adopted recommending to the General Assembly that your Board be incorporated and that Dr. Roberts and I be appointed a committee to report both the name for the corporation and the State under the laws of which it should be incorporated.

Being chairman of the committee, at the request of Dr. Roberts, I sent him my views on the subject. In reply thereto, he wrote me stating that I had exactly expressed his own feeling, both as to the name and place of incorporation, and he asked me to write you on the subject.

I enclose now a copy of my letter to Dr. Roberts, which will speak for itself. If it does not agree with the views of yourself and associates, I would esteem it a favor if you would let me hear from you on the subject, at the earliest possible date.

I will say that I submitted the matter to our good friend, Mrs. Pomeroy and she agreed that the name was excellent.

With sincere personal regards,

Yours truly,
Charles T. Thompson

CTT.
Encl.

April 16, 1914.

Mr. Charles T. Thompson,
509-14 Loan & Trust Building,
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. Thompson:

Your letter of April 8th is of the greatest interest as relating to a matter of vital importance to the Woman's Board of Home Missions. I wish that it might be possible for me to talk with you of the incorporation of our Board as the matter has not been directly brought to us from the Executive Commission. I am sure you will appreciate our interest and anxiety as to the terms of incorporation and will pardon me for taking up the matter with you when you and Doctor Roberts are the Committee on name and place of incorporation only.

As all of the Women's Boards of Foreign Missions are incorporated it seems natural that the Woman's Board of Home Missions should also be, and on the same basis as the Women's Foreign Boards, but the scope of the activities of the two are so different that there is a question whether the same kind of incorporation would meet the need of both.

As you know, the six Women's Boards of Foreign Missions are very closely allied to the Board of Foreign Missions; they support work assigned them by the general Board, have no power of administration in the mission fields, and have no real financial responsibility, that being assumed by the general Board. Their incorporation is, as I understand it, for the one purpose of receiving gifts and legacies.

While the Woman's Board of Home Missions is allied to the Board of Home Missions and that body has the final authority in

its affairs, yet the Woman's Board seeks its own fields of service they being frequently separate and distinct from those of the general Board; it administers the detailed affairs of its own mission stations and assumes financial responsibility for its field work and for its office administration. If it expends more than its receipts during a year, it assumes the indebtedness and pays it by special effort or by retrenchment.

I would not, in this statement of a general plan of work, seem to minimize the gifts or assistance of the Board of Home Missions generously accorded from time to time - I would always make due acknowledgement of such, but at this time the basic plan of work is all that needs consideration.

Should the Woman's Board of Home Missions become an incorporated body what would be its relations to the Board of Home Missions? What, if any, responsibility for it would the general Board continue to have - as, for example, in the way of borrowing money to carry the work until the gifts of societies are received? Would the general Board continue to act on the business of the Woman's Board? What would be the disposal of the property of the Women's Board now held by the Assembly's Board, in trust for the Woman's Board?

There are a multitude of issues, some vital, in the carrying on of our work and we are most anxious that should the Woman's Board be incorporated the articles of incorporation should define its status in a workable way.

I trust you will not feel that I have overstepped the bounds of propriety in writing thus frankly and of my own initiative. Did I not know both you and Doctor Roberts personally I should not have assumed so to do, but I know that it is your desire and that of the Executive Commission to simplify and help the work and on that ground I hoped you would pardon me for asking a few questions. It is very vital to us who are at the work all the time.

To answer your questions specifically. While we do cling to the form of name to which we are accustomed, i.e. Woman's Board of Home Missions and which seems to us a little more euphonious than the form suggested, Woman's Home Mission Board, we are very content in case of incorporation to adopt the latter if it seems to those considering this matter that it more clearly and promptly indicates the exact body and the scope thereof. We much prefer the abbreviation "U. S. A."

As to the place of incorporation - New Jersey as being convenient would be admirable. There would be no complications, would there, in having the general body incorporated in New York and the Women's Board incorporated in New Jersey?

As we shall not have a meeting of the Woman's Board until April 28th, you will understand that in above I am but expressing the opinions of myself and the other officers of the Woman's Board.

Believe me, with sincere appreciation of your kindly attitude toward the Woman's Board,

Yours very truly,

Statement made by Mrs. F. S. Bennett, President,

in re Incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions,

June 2, 1914.

- o - o - o - o - o - o - o -

The Executive Commission of General Assembly took action authorizing the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions at a meeting held early in the year. At the time no word was sent to us, but we were called on the question of the budget and the Women's Boards, - Miss Hubbard representing the Women's Foreign Boards, and myself the Woman's Board of Home Missions, - which subject was under consideration by the Executive Commission. That day it was said to me personally,"We are talking of incorporating the Woman's Board". I remarked that if any action had been passed we would of course hear of it formally. Nothing, however, was heard for many weeks. I tried to get hold of a copy of the minutes of that meeting, but was unable to do so. It seemed simply a rumor, therefore, I held my peace. Later on I received a letter from a man on the Executive Commission stating that action had been taken on this matter, and asking if a certain name and a certain State in which to incorporate would be satisfactory. As no meeting of the Woman's Board would be held just then, I replied that I supposed the State was satisfactory and naturally supposed that we would all have a great fondness for the name under which we have grown up. No answer came to that letter. I did not bring the matter up because I had nothing to say.

When I went to Annual Meeting I found that the "Blue Book" had come out with a statement authorizing the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions. As President of the Board I was called before the Executive Commission on this subject of incorporation, and at that time

raised a good many questions on the subject,- not against it, but as to terms, methods, etc., and the Woman's Board being consulted in the matter.

The question has been raised as to why the Executive Commission took this action originally. I think the action was taken because a lawyer raised the question of the legality of any gift, in a large number of States, given to the Woman's Board. He doubted if some of the gifts contributed could be defended in a Court if an endeavor was made to take them away; they would be absolutely illegal, and he would have great difficulty in his State in order to make them hold. Other people said the same thing to the Executive Commission too, I think, on that question when the the original proposition came up.

When the question was brought before the Executive Commission a large number of the men expressed surprise that the Women's Foreign Boards were incorporated bodies and the Woman's Board of Home Missions was not. At Assembly I was called before the Executive Commission to answer questions concerning the situation, and I asked that an officer of the Board of Home Missions be present in order that there might be no misunderstanding, and one of the officers of the Home Board was present through the full discussion of the subject.

The matter now stands:-

The Executive Commission took action authorizing the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and the Assembly ratified the action, raising no questions. The matter of terms and conditions of incorporation was referred back to the Executive Commission with power to act after conference with the Boards. Afterward I saw some members of the Executive Commission and Dr. Stone, and asked where we stood now, and was

advised that the matter would go into the hands of a sub-committee and lay over until next September, and nothing will be done until then. They will probably ask us to appoint a committee to meet with them. I was told that they would notify us in ample time just when they will meet in September.

ELMER E. COOLEY
WILLIAM S. BENNET
TELEPHONE [redacted] 5892 HANOVER
CABLE ATTYCOOL

BENNET & COOLEY.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW,
SIXTY WALL STREET,
NEW YORK.

June 26, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

Mr. Babbitt and myself have been appointed a Committee to confer with the Woman's Board and to consider its relation to the Board of Home Missions. I suppose we had better confer at the Board Rooms and I will welcome two or three alternative dates from you as times which would be convenient.

Yours very truly,

William S. Bennet

B/D.

ELMER E. COOLEY
WILLIAM S. BENNET
TELEPHONE [redacted] 5892 HANOVER
CABLE "ATTYCOOL"

BENNET & COOLEY,
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW,
SIXTY WALL STREET,
NEW YORK.

July 3, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,

156 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

I have yours of June 29th, and it is entirely satisfactory. I imagine the best thing to do would be to let the matter go over until early September when we shall all be in the city and somewhat at leisure.

Yours very truly,

B/D.

July 14, 1914.

Mr. William S. Bennet,
60 Wall St.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Bennet:-

I have your note of July third. It perhaps will be as well to let the matter of readjustment between the two Boards go over until late August or early September. I shall probably be in Englewood after the tenth of August, and at any time that you desire to have a conference shall be very glad to attend if possible.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

MISS ANNIE HYATT, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. A. S. CRANE, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
MISS EDITH GRIER LONG, SECRETARY
MRS. M. J. GILDERSLEEVE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
MISS M. JOSEPHINE PETRIE, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECRETARY

MRS. F. S. BENNETT, PRESIDENT
MISS DORA M. FISH, TREASURER

MRS. DWIGHT E. POTTER, SECRETARY OF STUDENT WORK
MISS THEODORA FINKS, EDITOR HOME MISSION MONTHLY
MARSHALL C. ALLABEN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MRS. SUSAN L. STORER, SECRETARY WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT
FREEDMEN'S BOARD, 518 BESSEMER BLDG., PITTSBURGH, PA.

June 29, 1914.

Rev. Maitland Alexander, D.D.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Dr. Alexander:-

In view of the fact that there has been appointed by the Board of Home Missions a Committee to consider the future relations of the Woman's Board to that body, I am emboldened to ask whether the matter of the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions has been referred to a sub-Committee of the Executive Commission, or whether it remains in the care of the full body?

I ask this as it may be desirable that I know to whom to write in case questions should come up in a Conference with the Committee of the Board concerning which we might wish to consult others.

I trust this request for information is not out of order, and remain, with all good wishes for the work of the year,

Very sincerely yours,

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Rev. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

Witherspoon Building
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

July 3rd, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,

New York City.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:-

Your letter to Dr. Alexander has been referred to me by him, for the reason that I have the honor to be the Secretary of the Executive Commission.

The matter of the incorporation of the Women's Board will come up at the meeting of the Executive Commission, Atlantic City, N. J. on September 29th, 1914. This meeting is to be held at the Hotel Chalfonte. If you have a statement to submit to the Executive Commission, kindly forward the same to me.

With sincere esteem, arising out of long friendship, I am

Yours cordially,

Wm. H. Roberts
Sec'y

July 14, 1914.

Dr. William H. Roberts,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Roberts:-

Your letter of July third has just reached me on my return from Northfield. I had written Dr. Alexander as I had supposed that the matter of the incorporation of the Woman's Board would go to a subcommittee of the Executive Commission, which committee would consult with the officers of the Board in order to have a recommendation ready for the meeting of the Executive Commission on September 29th. While I had not definitely been told in Chicago that this was the mode of procedure that would be followed, I had at least been given that impression. There will of necessity be so much detail to be decided upon in any action placing the Woman's Board on a different status that I am of course most anxious to have every opportunity of acquainting myself with any plans that may be in process of construction, and likewise anxious to present to any subcommittee while it is considering this matter the detailed statements as to the needs of our Woman's Board.

I very fully realize that the Executive Commission itself is so burdened with many things that there is no opportunity for the consideration of much detail. I have not as yet prepared any statement of our position in this matter, nor shall I be able to do so probably until early in September, but I most certainly will avail myself of the opportunity of preparing such and sending to you for use before the Commission.

Thanking you for your cordial willingness at all times to be bothered with our affairs, and with all best personal good wishes,

Believe me that I am
Most cordially yours,

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

REV. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

July 15, 1914

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,

New York

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

In reply to yours of July 14th I have to state that I suggest that you write to Mr. Charles T. Thompson, Loan and Trust Company, Minneapolis, Minn. As a member of the Executive Commission, he may have some suggestions to offer.

Cordially yours,

W. H. Roberts

W

September 14th, 1914.

Dr. William H. Roberts,
Witherspoon Bldg.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Roberts:-

I have naturally given much thought to the possible action of the Executive Commission at its meeting, September 29th, with regard to the incorporation of the Woman's Board, and have appreciated much your suggestion that if I have a statement to submit I forward the same to you. I shall, of course, be very glad to do this but am going to suggest first the possibility that the Commission might appoint a small Committee to confer with us at Atlantic City on this matter. I shall be very glad to go down there and to have with me any who may be needed. I feel that a conference with a small Committee, in which there might be opportunity and time for questions, would be much more satisfactory than a definite statement.

Incorporation per se seems to be desirable but the form of the incorporation is a serious matter, not only to the Woman's Board but to other agencies, and I feel personally that I wish to be fair and just in this matter and I do not wish to seek for any change in the status of the Woman's Board that might even seem to curtail the efforts of another department of the church. I wish to secure the most helpful form

through which the work entrusted to us may be advanced. Do you feel that there would be the possibility of the placing of this matter in the hands of a Committee with whom we could discuss this, in order that we might reach a right conclusion, or do you feel that it is best for me to prepare and send a formal statement to the Committee?

With very cordial good wishes to you personally, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

M.V.B./P.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
in the U.S.A.

REV. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

Witherspoon Building
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Sept. 15, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
President Womens' Home Mission,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

In reply to yours of September 14th, I have to state that there is already in existence a Committee of the Executive Commission on the subject of the incorporation of the Womens' Board of Home Missions. The Chairman of this Committee is Chas. T. Thompson, Esq., Loan & Trust Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn. Please write him.

There is no reason why a report should not be presented on the subject, at the meeting of the Executive Commission, and you can arrange with Mr. Thompson for an interview on Sept. 29.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Roberts

REC'D SEP 21 1914
ANS'D ✓
BY

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

D. STUART DODGE, D. D., PRESIDENT
HARVEY C. OLIN, TREASURER

CHARLES L. THOMPSON, D. D., SECRETARY
JOHN DIXON, D. D., ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
JOSEPH ERNEST MCAFEE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

September 18, 1914.

Miss Edith Grier Long,

156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Mis s Long:-

Enclosed please find an extract from the Minutes of the Board concerning the matter of the incorporation of the Woman's Board.

Very sincerely yours,

John Dixon

(Enclosure) Clerk of the Board.

REC'D SEP 21 1914
ANS'D
BY
D. STUART DODGE, D.D., PRESIDENT
HARVEY C. OLIN, TREASURER

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

CHARLES L. THOMPSON, D. D., SECRETARY
JOHN DIXON, D.D., ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
JOSEPH ERNEST MCAFEE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS, MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 1914.

"The Board took up the question of the incorporation of the Woman's Board, as submitted by the last General Assembly to the Executive Commission.

"On motion it was voted that in the judgment of this Board the incorporation of the Woman's Board at this time is not advisable."

The above is a true copy.

Attest:

John Dixon

September 18, 1914. Clerk of the Board.

September 21st, 1914.

Mr. Charles T. Thompson,
Loan and Trust Building,
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. Thompson:-

I have just learned from Dr. Roberts that a committee has been appointed from the Executive Commission to consider the subject of the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and that you are Chairman of this Committee. I am sure I need not say how gladly we welcome so good a friend in this capacity.

I am simply writing you at this time to know the pleasure of your Committee. I am planning to go to Atlantic City, Hotel Chalfonte, on Monday, September 28th, and will, of course, be very glad to be called upon by the Committee for any information that may be needed, either while I am at Atlantic City or here in New York at an earlier date, if that is better.

Believe me that I am,

Yours very sincerely,

M.K.B./P.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
in the U.S.A.

REV. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

Witherspoon Building
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Sept. 23, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
Woman's Board of Home Missions,
New York, New York.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

Looking over your letter of September 14th, I am lead to write you to know if you expect to submit a statement to the Executive Commission as to the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, at the meeting at Atlantic City, on September 29th. Not only does the Executive Commission meet at 10.30 o'clock in the morning, but there there is an official conference with the Boards at 8 o'clock in the evening on the same day.

Mr. Chas. T. Thompson who is Chairman of the Committee of the Executive Commission on the subject of this incorporation, will be at Atlantic City on the afternoon of Monday, September 28th.

Please let me hear from you by Saturday, Sept. 26th, at the latest.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Roberts

KEITH. EVANS. THOMPSON & FAIRCHILD.
COUNSELLORS AT LAW.
509-14 LOAN AND TRUST BUILDING.
MINNEAPOLIS.

ARTHUR M. KEITH
CHARLES T. THOMPSON
EDWIN K. FAIRCHILD
HAROLD G. CANT

Sept. 24th, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Bennett:

Your favor of Sept. 21st is at hand.

I had supposed that the Committee on the organization of the Women's Board had finished its work when it reported to the General Assembly recommending such action. Judging from the tenor of your letter I was mistaken in this supposition.

I expect to be at Atlantic City attending the meeting of the Commission and will see you about the matter at that time.

Yours truly,

Charles T. Thompson

CTT.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

MISS ANNIE HYATT, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. A. S. CRANE, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
MISS EDITH GRIER LONG, SECRETARY
MRS. M. J. GILDERSLEEVE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
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MARSHALL C. ALLABEN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MRS. SUSAN L. STORER, SECRETARY WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT
FREEDMEN'S BOARD, 818 BESSEMER BLDG., PITTSBURGH, PA.

Sept 25, 1914.

To the Executive Commission of
The General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Sirs:-

As the question of the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions had been referred by the last Assembly to the Executive Commission, and as it was known that this body would meet late in September, the matter of incorporation was brought to the attention of the Woman's Board at its first meeting of this season.

After most careful consideration had been given, an informal vote was taken: this was unanimous in favor of incorporation. It has seemed to me that this expression of the wishes of the women of the Board would be of interest to those who must vote on the question.

There is held in trust for the Woman's Board by the Board of Home Missions, property valued at about $1,000,000.00: the permanent invested funds of the Woman's Board are $178,000.00: there passed through its Treasury during the last fiscal year the sum of $615,000.00, of which amount 94,000. was transferred to the Freedmen's Board, $28,000. for local work among Immigrants, and $13,000. to the Board of Home Missions in adjustment of the receipts from Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies. Building and permanent funds were set aside, leaving an income for the current work of the Woman's Board of $453,000.00

In view of the large interests involved we realize that there must be consideration of many details of adjustment and administration. We trust that ample opportunity to review these, with such a Committee

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

MISS ANNIE HYATT, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. A. S. CRANE, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
MISS EDITH GRIER LONG, SECRETARY
MRS. M. J. GILDERSLEEVE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
MISS M. JOSEPHINE PETRIE, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECRETARY

MRS. F. S. BENNETT, PRESIDENT
MISS DORA M. FISH, TREASURER

MRS. DWIGHT E. POTTER, SECRETARY OF STUDENT WORK
MISS THEODORA FINKS, EDITOR HOME MISSION MONTHLY
MARSHALL C. ALLABEN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MRS. SUSAN L. STORER, SECRETARY WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT
FREEDMEN'S BOARD, 518 BESSEMER BLDG., PITTSBURGH, PA.

or in such a manner as the Executive Commission may order shall be given to those representatives who have been appointed by the Woman's Board to be in attendance at Atlantic City during the session of the Commission. These members of the Board will frankly answer all queries that may arise, and give whatever aid they may in the settlement of the matter. We have but one desire- the most efficient, most helpful form of administration for the Woman's Board that will enable it to serve well both the mission fields entrusted to it, and its constituency in the home church.

I remain,

Respectfully yours,

President.

C O P Y.

RESOLUTION,

as to the Incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, adopted by the Executive Commission, Sept. 30, 1914.

RESOLVED, "That the Executive Commission deems it expedient that the Woman's Board of Home Missions should be legally incorporated, but with such provision in the articles of incorporation as would make it an auxiliary to the present Board of Home Missions; and, further, that a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions, by Committees of three appointed by each Board, as to the manner and details of the incorporation, and to report to the Executive Commission at its February meeting."

The Committee of Three of the Executive Commission, consists of Charles T. Thompson, Esq., Rev. S. J. Niccolls,D.D., and George V. Massey, Esq.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. ROBERTS.
Secretary,Executive Commission.

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FREEDMEN'S BOARD, 518 BESSEMER BLDG., PITTSBURGH, PA.

Sept.25,1914.

Dr. William H. Roberts,D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia,Pa.

My dear Dr. Roberts:-

It has not been easy to know how much to place in a statement to the Executive Commission, knowing as I do, how pressed that body is for time. I have, therefore, not tried to enter into the details of the matter of the incorporation of the Woman's Board, but have tried to content myself with the belief that such will be gone over with a Committee appointed for such a purpose.

I am planning to reach the Hotel Chelfonte on Monday afternoon, and shall have with me Miss Anna Hyatt, first Vice-President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

Thanking you for all your courtesy to me, and with pleasant anticipations of seeing you again, I am,

Very cordially yours,

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
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FREEDMEN'S BOARD, 513 BESSEMER BLDG., PITTSBURGH, PA

September 25, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,
149 Dwight Place,
Englewood, New Jersey.

My dear Mrs. Bennett:

I am sending on a letter marked"personal" which came to you in our mail to-day.

I would have been glad to talk with you regarding a very pleasant interview I had with Mr. McAfee, Dr. Dixon and Mr. Olin concerning the action of the Board on the incorporation of the Woman's Board. Dr. Dixon said the matter came before the Home Board in connection with other items of business, and that it was not especially discussed. Mr. Olin was out of the meeting at the time when the vote was taken. Mr. McAfee was present but did not understand the motion to be as the Minutes recorded.

They all agree that the Board had presented to it the fact of the conference of the officers of the two Boards on Tuesday afternoon of last week, together with the recommendation from that joint conference that the Executive Commission should defer consideration of the incorporation of the Woman's Board till a later meeting. Mr. McAfee said - and I understand the others to agree in his statement - that it was a grief that the Board of Home Missions had gone on record as it had. They all agree, too, that,with such action on the part of the Board,no other way was open to the Woman's Board than that which it had followed in the Executive meeting on Tuesday of this week, in appointing representatives to meet the committee of the Executive Commission appointed to consider the incorporation of the Woman's Board.

You will be interested (and, I am sure, sorry also) to know that to none of the officers of the Board of Home Missions had come notification of the appointment of the Executive Commission's sub-committee.

We had a pleasant talk concerning the matter, and I am sure that some misunderstandings which were in the minds of both Mr. Olin and Dr. Dixon were removed by some of the things that I was glad to be able to tell them.

They did not know which of them were to be in Atlantic City - none of them wants to go. I think it likely that all three will be there. I think Dr. Thompson is to be there also for part of the time on matters connected with the Home Missions Council.

I hope this cooler weather is bringing you a bit of respite, and that you will be abundantly guided in every hour of your Atlantic City sojourn.

I suppose one of the notices for our fifth Tuesday meeting reached you this morning. I signed them yesterday.

I do not need to tell you how earnestly some of us are bearing you on our hearts to the end that you may not be over-borne by this time of stress, and that the outcome may be in accordance with the Divine plan for our work,

Loyally,

Edith Irvine Long

L/B

October 5th, 1914.

Mr. Charles T. Thompson,

509-14 Loan & Trust Bldg.

Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. Thompson:

I wish very much to express to you my personal appreciation of all of your kindness and courtesy at Atlantic City, and to make acknowledgment of the debt of gratitude owed you by the Woman's Board of Home Missions and its officers for all you did in their behalf. So far things are very satisfactory and I trust that we may be able to bring the whole matter to a satisfactory conclusion before February. Whenever it meets the convenience of yourself, and the others on the committee with you, we shall hold ourselves in readiness to meet you.

I am having sent you, under separate cover, a copy of the last Annual Report of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, a copy of the Treasurer's Report and a copy of the Standing Rules under which the Board is at present organized. It has seemed to me that you might care to see these preparatory to holding such a meeting. I shall be very glad to send copies to the other members of your committee, if you think it best so to do and will be good enough to let me know where to reach Mr. Massey.

Believe me that I am,

Very sincerely yours,

B/.

December 23rd, 1914.

Mr. Arthur M. Keith,
509 Loan & Trust Building,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Keith:

If in looking over the papers of Mr. Charles T. Thompson you find any referring to the matter of the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions that are not of an official character to be turned over to the members of the Committee, and that are of such character that I might see them, I should be very glad for the privilege.

Mr. Thompson had been for many years the warm friend of the Woman's Board, and we feel that we have had a very great loss in his death. He was giving strength and time to our service, and we feel that we would be glad to utilize any effort that may be now in such tangible form as to be of value to us.

Believe me that I am,

Very cordially yours,

B/P.

KEITH, EVANS, THOMPSON & FAIRCHILD.
COUNSELLORS AT LAW.
509-14 LOAN AND TRUST BUILDING.
MINNEAPOLIS.

ARTHUR M. KEITH
CHARLES T. THOMPSON
EDWIN K. FAIRCHILD
HAROLD G. CANT

Jan. 6th, 1915.

Mrs. M. Katherine Bennett,
c/o Women's Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Madam:

In the confusion incident to moving, I have been obliged to delay answering your letter of the 23rd of December.

I will bear the matter to which you refer in mind, and if I find any papers which will be of interest or value, will communicate with your further.

Yours truly,

A. M. Keith.

AMK.

ARTHUR M. KEITH, JOSEPH R. KINGMAN, NORTON M. CROSS AND THOMAS F. WALLACE ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAW UNDER THE NAME OF KEITH, KINGMAN, CROSS AND WALLACE, WITH OFFICES AT NUMBER 1010 SECURITY BANK BUILDING, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, SUCCEEDING THE FIRMS OF KEITH, EVANS, THOMPSON AND FAIRCHILD, RECENTLY DISSOLVED BY THE DEATH OF MR. CHARLES T. THOMPSON, OF KINGMAN AND WALLACE, AND OF FISKE AND CROSS, DISSOLVED BY THE RETIREMENT OF MR. FISKE FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW.

ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW FIRM WILL BE HAROLD G. CANT, GEORGE S. BURGESS AND KEITH MERRILL.

JANUARY 1, 1915.

October 5th, 1914.

Dr. A. E. Keigwin,
West End Presbyterian Church,
Amsterdam Ave. & 105th St.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Keigwin:

I was extremely sorry to leave Atlantic City without the opportunity for a few quiet words with you, the meeting on the porch, as we were leaving, hardly seemed to offer that occasion. The matter is not, of course, of importance to you but it does seem of keen importance to me that I understand it was the impression among the gentlemen of the Board that I had "changed my mind" over night relative to our position in making a request of the Executive Commission. I should feel that could I so easily change my opinions it would hardly be fitting for me to even attempt to keep my position. It was not my understanding that any conference between the members of the Board of Home Missions and those of the Women's Board had been held; every meeting had been a purely personal and informal chat, and I was much surprised to learn that a statement had been made to a member of the Executive Commission as a request from a conference of representatives of the two Boards. I had said, and was glad to re-iterate it, that I hoped a conference might be held, in order that we might reach an agreement as to the matter to be presented to the Commission. I think I never definitely stated what I hoped that agreement might be.

When the officers of the two Boards had a conference three weeks ago, the women agreed to ask for postponement of the whole matter until February. Then came the message from the Board, telling of the action of that Body. Later, the Woman's Board took action definitely, instructing its representatives to ask for Incorporation, leaving the terms for future consideration.

While no one regretted more than I the fact that the wording of the action of the Board of Home Missions was such as to mislead us, nevertheless I could hardly go back of the action of the Woman's Board to the original position, but as a number of members of the Board of Home Missions had said to me personally that they would not oppose Incorporation in some form, I felt quite certain that a conference at Atlantic City would mean that we could unitedly work for exactly such action as was finally taken by the Commission. It would have been so simple a matter to have had this conference but for moments had the members of the Board appeared at the appointed time. I, for one, am extremely sorry that we did not all meet and talk it over.

I am sorry to bother you with this long statement but I do feel that it is due to myself, after the talks that we had there, that I should not leave you with the impression that my plans differed from time to time. In fact, I felt that it was quite clear to all that the Woman's Board was asking for Incorporation.

Should this matter be referred to by members of the Board, I should be very glad to entrust to you the making straight of the whole matter.

I hope that you found a little rest in the time in Atlantic City, and remain,

Very sincerely yours,

B/P.

Exhibit a

Copy.

September 18, 1914.

Miss Edith Grier Long,

156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Miss Long:-

Enclosed please find an extract from the Minutes of the Board concerning the matter of the incorporation of the Woman's Board.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) John Dixon
Clerk of the Board.

(Enclosure)

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS, MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 1914.

"The Board took up the question of the incorporation of the Woman's Board, as submitted by the last General Assembly to the Executive Commission.

"On motion it was voted that in the judgment of this Board the incorporation of the Woman's Board at this time is not advisable."

The above is a true copy.

Attest:

(Signed) John Dixon
Clerk of the Board.

September 18, 1914.

A. EDWIN KEIGWIN, D.D., MODERATOR
D. C. FRAZEE, TREASURER

JAS. DEWITT ANDREWS, LL.D., VICE MODERATOR
PHILIP CROXTON, CLERK

West End Presbyterian Church

PASTOR'S CABINET

AMSTERDAM AVE. AT 105TH STREET

SUPERINTENDENTS

M. B. DUNNING
PERSONAL WORK

M. T. SCUDDER, PH. D.
EDUCATION

HOWARD WHITFIELD
RECLAMATION

JAS. DEWITT ANDREWS, LL.D.
SOCIAL SERVICE

A. L. MERRITT
PUBLICITY

NEW YORK, ~~October, 6, 1914~~ 191

My dear Mrs. Bennett;-

Let me assure you, in answer to your kind letter of this morning, that I entertain no such views of your position in the matter of Incorperation, as you seem to think. I am quite sure that the members of the Board will be quite above charging you with any double dealing. The facts are perfectly clear in my own mind, but I have formed no conclusions-nor shall I do so until I know the arguments upon both sides. I understand that a conference, such as you wish, is to be called.

With warm personal regard and best wishes, in which Mrs. Keigwin joins,

Very cordially yours,

A. Edwin Keigwin

I wish you might have gone with us & our kind & Moving Pictures.

Very truly

Elizabeth Gray Keigwin

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

REV. W. H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Oct. 14, 1914

Mrs. Bennett,

President Woman's Board of Home Missions.

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Resolution of the Executive Commission as to the Incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

Yours very truly,

Wm H. Roberts
Sec'

w
enc

RESOLUTION

as to the Incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, adopted by the Executive Commission, Sept. 30, 1914.

RESOLVED "That the Executive Commission deem it expedient that the Woman's Board of Home Missions should be legally incorporated, but with such provision in the articles of incorporation as would make it an auxiliary to the present Board of Home Missions; and, further, that a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions, by Committees of three appointed by each Board, as to the manner and details of the incorporation, and to report to the Executive Commission at its February meeting."

The Committee of three of the Executive Commission, consists of Charles T. Thompson, Esq., Rev. S.J.Niccolls,D.D., and George V. Massey, Esq.

Wm. H. Roberts

Secretary, Executive Commission.

October 15th, 1914.

Rev. William H. Roberts, D.D.
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Roberts:

Thank you very much for the copy of the Resolution passed by the Executive Commission in relation to the Incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

With very good wishes, believe me that I am,

Most cordially yours,

B/P.

NOV 1 1914

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Mrs. Gilchrist
Miss Oetrie
Miss Irish
Mrs. Bennett

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

M

D. M. F.

November 17, 1914.

Miss Edith Grier Long,

156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Miss Long:-

The Board of Home Missions at its meeting on November the twelfth took the following action:-

"The President added Mr. Parsons to the Committee already appointed on the relation of the Woman's Board to the Home Board, consisting of Mr. Bennet and Mr. Babbott.

"On motion the whole matter of the action of the Executive Commission concerning the incorporation of the Woman's Board and the proposal to incorporate the Woman's Board were referred to this Committee with power."

Very sincerely yours,

John Dixon

Clerk of the Board.

Nov [illegible] 1914

INCORPORATION OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

The committee of the Woman's Board to which this matter has been referred feels that in considering this question the two fields of administration at headquarters and of administration in the field must be considered.

I. Office Administration.

The committee feels that the Woman's Board should have authority under incorporation,

1. To receive and disburse its own funds,
2. To receive legacies and permanent funds,
3. To make all necessary investments, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of the Board of Home Missions.

It is suggested that the joint Literature Department and the joint Young People's Department be abolished; that the Board of Home Missions take over the care of the Sunday Schools; that to the Woman's Board there be given the care of Young People's societies - placing the adjustment on the basis that now exists in the Board of Foreign Missions and the Women's Foreign Boards.

II. Field Administration.

1. That the administration of the school and hospital work shall be by the Woman's Board from headquarters.
2. That, in cases where the Woman's Board shall co-operate in carrying on community work or such activities as are directly related to the work of a local pastor, the funds therefor shall be paid by the Woman's Board to the Board of Home Missions, the full management of the work to be vested in the latter body.
3. That the Woman's Board of Home Missions shall be responsible and report directly to the General Assembly, in relation to all work entrusted to the Woman's Board.

Submitted to Mr. Maitland Alexander, Moderator of Genl Assembly, on Nov. 30(?) 1914.

I. Desire of Woman's Board is not for independence but for clear cut definitions of its work and relationships.

II. Re-organization of the Home Board made some change necessary:

a: Work of the Board of Home Missions placed more definitely in Presbyteries.

III. Work of Woman's Board could not be thus supervised:

1: Mission schools usually in weak Presbyteries.

2: Members of Presbytery would not have time.

3: Such supervision would not be pedagogical.

4: Need of flexibility that workers may be transferred.

5: Mission school work cannot be bounded by presbyterial lines, and, therefore,

6: Financing cannot be by Presbyteries.

IV. Relations of an Incorporated Woman's Board:

a: To General Assembly.

b: To C. E. Societies and Sunday Schools.

c: To the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board.

V. What was meant in motion concerning Incorporation by "auxiliary to the Board of Home Missions?"

VI. Possible action of Committee on Religious Education in relation to the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

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FREEDMEN'S BOARD, 518 BESSEMER BLDG., PITTSBURGH, PA

December 9, 1914.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,

My dear Mrs. Bennett:

The Executive Committee of the Board at its meeting this week received the following Resolution from the California Synodical Society, regarding incorporation, and ordered it placed in the hands of the Board's Committee on Incorporation.

"In view of the fact that the Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., finances all the educational institutions and many of the hospitals connected with the Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church and has no property rights in these institutions and

Whereas it cannot receive legacies bequeathed to the Woman's Board, nor administer its own affairs; therefore be it

Resolved that the Synodical Society of California most earnestly petition the Woman's Board of Home Missions to formulate a plan for incorporation which will enable the Woman's Board to receive legacies bequeathed to it and to administer on all property held by it.

Done in Executive Session, Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, October 27, 1914."

I send this to you as Chairman of the Committee.

Sincerely,

Edith Grier Long

L/B

(Dec. 1914 ?)

INCORPORATION OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

THE STATUS OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

I. The re-organization of the Board of Home Missions has made some change in the work of the Woman's Board desirable.

1. The control by presbytery of the work of the Board of Home Missions has brought about an entirely new condition. Mission schools and hospitals could not readily be supervised by committees of presbytery, as is the evangelistic work, because such supervision
   a. would not be trained
   b. would demand more time than could be given

2. The work of the Woman's Board could not well be placed under presbytery, because
   a. need of flexibility in transference of workers from one part of the country to another to meet conditions,
   b. the hospital and mission school work is not bounded by presbyterial lines and therefore,
   c. financing could not readily be by presbyteries.

3. At headquarters, the Woman's Board, though a Department of the Board of Home Missions, legally, is held responsible for its own expenditures and ~~its own~~ share in the receipts or legacies of the Board of Home Missions, as do other Departments.
   It is true that the Woman's Board has a source of income peculiarly its own, but if any organization is responsible for paying its own expenditures in full, it would seem to be logical that it should have full authority in deciding upon such expenditures.
   The system of office administration of the Board of Home Missions having been greatly changed, the Department of the Board that is most closely connected with the work of the Woman's Board of Home Missions has been established at St. Louis, thus making for a cumbersome and difficult method of adjustment, leaving at New York those officers who have the least responsibility for the policies under which the Woman's Board should work.

Therefore, should not the Woman's Board either be given such a freedom of administration, both at headquarters and in the field, as will make for the most efficient, economical and effective method of administration for its affairs?

Or, would it not be more logical, failing the above, to make it more truly a working part of the Board of Home Missions, bearing such relation to it as the six Women's Foreign Boards bear to the Board of Foreign Missions?

In considering any such solution as this last, it must be borne in mind that administration by presbytery of the affairs of the Board of Home Missions has complicated the whole situation.

Prepared by

M. Katharine Bennett.

December 15th, 1914.

The Woman's Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Friends:-

Pursuant to the action of the Executive Commission at Atlantic City in September last, we have been appointed by the Home Board the Committee on its behalf to consider and to report about the manner and details of incorporation of your Board.

As you may have learned, a representative committee of our Board attended at Atlantic City to represent to the Commission some general considerations bearing upon the whole subject in answer to what might be submitted by or for you; but after waiting to be called before the commission were somewhat surprised to learn that action had been taken while they were waiting. One result was that the Home Board failed to learn what may have been submitted on your behalf. Doubtless it was because of inadvertence, and it is of less consequence for the reason that the Home Board acquiesces in the incorporation on your Board, provided that the details can be so arranged as not to affect injuriously the important work in which you and we are interested.

The preliminary and the essential condition is involved in the provision as ordered by the Commission, that the Articles incorporating your Board shall "make it an auxiliary to the present Board of Home Missions". Your Board before making its application must have gone over the whole subject and must have considered, both from the practical and from the legal standpoint, how is to be worked out the plan by which your Board, although incorporated, is to be auxiliary to the Home Board.

It will greatly facilitate our consideration if you will at your earliest convenience let us have a few lines stating your views or an outline of your views upon the subject. Details about the work, about expenses, receipts and many other items are involved, some of which bear upon the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation.

If you will furnish us with a statement of your wishes, or of your ideas upon the subject of what is in the interest of the work to be done by your Board as an incorporated auxiliary of the Home Board, we will take the matter up immediately.

Very truly yours,

Jno. E. Parsons

William S Bennett

Frank L. Babbott

December 30th, 1914.

Miss Annie Hyatt,

166 Marlborough Road,

Brooklyn, New York.

My dear Miss Hyatt:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter received from the Committee appointed by the Board of Home Missions to consider the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions. I am sending this that you may have time to think it over before next Tuesday, when I hope we may have a little time to talk of the matter.

Lovingly yours,

B/P.

December 30th, 1914.

Mrs. John F. Pingry,

571 Newark Avenue,

Elizabeth, New Jersey.

My dear Mrs. Pingry:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter received from the Committee appointed by the Board of Home Missions to consider the incorporation of the Woman's Board of Home Missions. I am sending this that you may have time to think it over before next Tuesday, when I hope we may have a little time to talk of the matter.

Thank you, dear Lady, for the loving, good wishes that came for Christmas.

Lovingly yours,

B/P.

STATEMENT. [redacted].

Regarding Proposed Incorporation
of the Woman's Board of Home Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Following action taken by the Executive Commission in February of 1914, the report of that body to the General Assembly in May 1914 included the following:

> "Resolved, That the Assembly hereby authorizes the incorporation of the present Woman's Board of Home Missions under the name and title of the Woman's Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; and directs the Executive Commission to co-operate with the officers of the Woman's Board of Home Missions in securing the charter."

Upon presentation of this matter to the General Assembly the following resolution was passed by the General Assembly; May, 1915.

> "Resolved, That the General Assembly refer the matter of incorporating the Woman's Board of Home Missions to the Executive Commission, to confer with the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board; and that after the Conference, if the way be clear, the Executive Commission be empowered to proceed with the incorporation."

No further action on this matter was taken until the meeting of the Executive Commission held at Atlantic City, September thirtieth, 1914, at which time the following resolution was taken:

> "Resolved, That the Executive Commission deems it expedient that the Woman's Board of Home Missions should be legally incorporated, with such provision in the articles of incorporation as should make it an auxiliary to the present Board of Home Missions: and, further, that a Committee of Three be appointed to confer with the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions, by committees of three appointed by each Board, as to the manner and details of the incorporation and to report to the Executive Commission at its February meeting."

In the report made to the Assembly, May, 1915, the Executive Commission, after reviewing the action of the Assembly of 1914, added:

> "After due consideration by a Committee of the Commission, and after conference with both the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions, the Executive Commission approved the following Charter and directed that it be secured:
> (Here follows Charter)

"The Executive Commission having received power to proceed in this matter, respectfully reports for information the charter to the General Assembly."

This report was accepted by the Assembly.